



NEWS RELEASE

05-105

Date: Tuesday, March 15, 2005
District: District 8- San Bernardino
Contact: Terri Kasinga
Phone: (909) 383-6799 (work)
(951) 232-4268 (cell)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE

State Route 138 Opens from 4 am to 9 pm

Crestline - The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) announces that after two and a half months of restricted access, State Route 138 will be open to traffic in both directions without escort beginning Wednesday, March 16, 2005 from 4:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily. Caltrans was able to make significant progress to slope and road repairs during this last week of dry weather. Both lanes of the route have been restored including repairs to storm damage under the roadway. However, there still remains additional upper slope repair.

California Highway Patrol presence will be on-site each morning and evening to assist during rush hour traffic. A "spotter" will be available during these hours to monitor slide activity and insure motorist safety at the upper slope where the original slide occurred. They will have access to a horn and in the event of slide activity will alert traffic to stop. At this point a determination will be made to continue with the open schedule or close the route.

The upper slope has been a focus for Caltrans since the beginning of January 2005 due to a large crevice within the closure limits. The fissure is located about 350 feet up the slope, measures 150 wide and over 4 feet deep. A Caltrans geologist discovered the crevice after the initial rock and mudslide closed the route. Caltrans has continued to monitor this section of the slope while doing other repairs to three locations of SR-138, where sections of the roadbed fell away due to slope erosion.

In order to reopen the roadway full time, Caltrans must remove the upper slope. Several methods have been discussed and Caltrans engineers have decided to use explosives to remove the slope. They are now dedicated to locating a contractor that will complete the demolition. Closures of the route during the slope removal are expected, and have yet to be determined. Commuters can expect a several day closure to complete the slope demolish and removal. Caltrans will provide advance notification through our Commuter Alert and media outreach

The new schedule is subject to weather and can be modified or canceled without advance notice. The mountain community's patience and understanding during this process has been greatly appreciated.

SLOW FOR THE CONE ZONE – your life or the life of another may depend on it!

#

